

THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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WORK SUMMARY

The General Theological Seminary (GTS) stands on the threshold of a new era. The Board of Trustees elected a new Chairman in January 2001, the Very Rev. Robert Giannini, Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. Dean Giannini, GTS class of 1967, leads an institution invigorated by hope and creativity, collaborating with committed trustees, faculty, students, and staff. New and revitalized programs, fresh ideas, and a willingness to explore bold initiatives contribute to the vibrant atmosphere of growth.

Founded in 1817 by General Convention, the Seminary is not content to rest on its history and unique position within the Episcopal Church. GTS has begun planning for the creation of a dynamic education center and inn to serve as a hub for conferences, institutes and new programs. Through an enhanced M.A. program, General will provide a flexible, academically rigorous path for continuing and lay education. In all, General aims to become the seminary of the whole church not merely in name, but through engagement with the wider church and the formation and education of future leaders of the church.

PROGRAMS AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Enrollment in the Masters of Divinity Program at GTS has nearly doubled in the last three years. In the 2002-03 academic year, General welcomed students from 41 dioceses and 3 Lutheran Synods, and 30% of the junior class was under age 30. GTS continues its long tradition of supporting theological education through significant financial aid expenditures; last year the GTS scholarship fund provided 48% of tuition and fees for all programs, including the Center for Christian Spirituality and the College for Bishops. Approximately two-thirds of all M.Div. students receive aid.

In the fall of 2001, the first students of the *Programa Hispano/Latino de Teología y Pastoral*—a fully accredited M.Div. program for primary speakers of Spanish—started taking classes in Spanish at GTS. The program, directed by the Rev. Canon Juan M.C. Oliver, Ph.D., now enrolls 17 postulants or aspirants for ordination. There is an urgent need in the Episcopal church for Hispanic clergy, especially in urban areas, and it is part of the GTS mission, located as it is in the heart of the largest urban area in the United States, to respond to that need. This program is supported through partnerships with the Episcopal dioceses of New York, New Jersey, Newark, Connecticut and Long Island, as well the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey Synods of the ECLA.

In 2001, the Rev. Jonathan Linman, Ph.D., was appointed Director of the Center for Christian Spirituality. Dr. Linman, a Lutheran pastor with twelve years experience in parish ministry, has focused on clarifying the Center's mission. He says, "We hope the Center will provide leaven for spiritual growth among the Church's future generations of leaders through its presence in this community." The Center received a three-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to expand and gain self-sufficiency as a ministry of General Seminary. To achieve these goals, the Center has increased its course offerings, encouraged greater participation among M.Div. students, and begun more targeted publicity. In February 2003, Sandra Schneiders, I.H.M., S.T.D., gave the first annual lecture in Christian Spirituality sponsored by the Center, *Embodying the Word: The Role of Interpretation in Biblical Spirituality*.

Beginning in September 2003, GTS will extend the part-time Masters degree programs in Christian Spirituality, Biblical Studies, and Anglican Studies. The courses are shaped to meet the needs of both M.Div. and M.A. students and are scheduled at times convenient for both constituencies. The focus on lay ministry reflects values deeply cherished by the Seminary: community, hospitality, accessibility, and the centrality of worship. The program will invite part-time students to share all the resources of the seminary and flows naturally from our mission to form leaders for the Church in a changing world.

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CHELSEA SQUARE

During the last three years, the Seminary has planned the redevelopment of its historic Close on Chelsea Square. General has seized on its mission of educating and forming church leaders to guide these plans. The concept of an education center on the Close remains central to the vision of General in the 21st century. Outside feasibility studies and internal investigation have confirmed that:

- An education center will provide much-needed conference space at or below market rates for church-related organizations in the heart of New York City, a crossroads of the international Anglican Communion.
- Millions of dollars of deferred maintenance will be addressed through facilities renovation.
- The Seminary gains a permanent income stream to support theological education.

The education center facility is slated to contain numerous programs and institutes. One possibility is a center focused on peace and justice whose internationally oriented activities, conferences and lectures would be based at General. In addition, GTS would play host to a wide range of academic and church-related events, made possible by the ability to house and feed participants on-site at reasonable rates.

LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

In 2001, General's Board of Trustees approved the largest capital-funds drive in the Seminary's history. The \$21-million Leaders for the Church campaign will seek \$10 million for the education center and improvements to other academic spaces; \$6 million for our endowment; and \$5 million for annual operations.

The GTS Board—whose members will conduct a retreat on trusteeship and governance in October 2003—are profoundly committed to the health and future of the Seminary. Their expertise and generosity are integral to the success of the campaign, and they are largely responsible for the good work already underway.

As part of the fund-raising effort, General Seminary has sought and received more major grants from philanthropic organizations and individuals than in any other three-year period in its history. A grant from the Lilly Endowment allowed the creation of two “smart classrooms” and a computer lab; a strategic planning grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations supported four feasibility studies; dual grants from the Teagle Foundation strengthened the leadership and management of the institution; a grant from the H. Boone Porter Charitable Trust endowed a chair in liturgics; several anonymous grants provide the footing for the redevelopment of Chelsea Square; and the Henry Luce Foundation grant helped revitalize the Center for Christian Spirituality. All testify to a strong belief that the Seminary is a place worthy of significant investment.

APPOINTMENTS

In faculty appointments—in addition to Dr. Linman’s—the Rev. Robert J. Owens, Ph.D., joined General Seminary as Professor of Old Testament in 2001. The Rev. James W. Farwell, Ph.D., a 1987 GTS alumnus, arrived for the Michaelmas Term 2002 as Assistant Professor of Liturgics in the H. Boone Porter Chair. Both Professors Owens and Farwell cite the integration of academic study with the life of faith as a motivation for accepting their respective positions. As Dr. Owens writes in our 2003 catalog, “I have been delighted to discover the seriousness and depth of faith of our students.... The rich experience of our students gives special meaning to the description of GTS as a community of Christian learning. Both faculty and students actively share our common adult life in Christ, as we engage in rigorous theological study.”

Three other senior appointments were made in late 2002. J. Frederick Rogers, the great-great-grandson of a member of the Class of 1858, began service as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Alumni/ae Relations in November. Maureen Burnley was appointed Vice President for Finance and Operations in December. The Rev. Andrew G. Kadel began his duties as Director of The St. Mark’s Library in January 2003.

In other recent news, Dr. Robert Bruce Mullin, Sub-Dean for Academic Affairs, and Professor of History and World Mission, and Modern Anglican Studies, published his latest book, *The Puritan as Yankee: A Life of Horace Bushnell*, in November 2002. In 2001, Professor of Ecclesiastical History, the Rev. Dr. J. Robert Wright, published a beautifully illustrated and very well received history of Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue.

The General Theological Seminary is a vibrant community of faith in New York City, grounded in scholarship, academic study, and worship. All postulants for ordination write spiritual autobiographies as part of their discernment process. Much of the process of formation revolves around this concept. The Seminary has its own spiritual autobiography to write. It would be the history of all those who have passed beyond its walls, into the service of Christ. It would be a history of the walls themselves, as they record the theological arguments of eras past that still echo down the corridors. And it would be a history of the discussions of the future among trustees, students, faculty and staff that create the place anew with every generation. Beloved, historic, and modern all at once, General Seminary has the will and the resources to thrive in the 21st century.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Ward B. Ewing
Dean and President